

THE GRAVE ON PIKE'S PEAK

One of the Humorous Fancies of the Signal-Service Men There.

A few rods from the signal observers' hut a lot of small stones had been piled up to resemble a grave, and a wooden headboard throws a shadow upon them when the western sun is low. The average visitor, says the Chicago Record, approaches it with a solemn air, and when he reads the inscription he turns a glance of surprised inquiry upon whoever may be standing by. The inscription represents the grave to be that of a lady who was eaten by rats on the summit of Pike's Peak one night in 1876, which, of course, is something that never happened. Along about that time some newspaper fakir published a yarn in the east about the horrible death of a woman who was spending the night on the top of this mountain, and it was generally copied by the press of the country. There was no foundation for it, and it created a great deal of indignation here. When the railroad was first opened the influence of the press was demonstrated by the number of inquiries that were made of the weather observers concerning this unfortunate woman, and the signal service officers, who have very little to occupy them, displayed their humor and spent their spare time in fixing up this grave and painting the inscription on the headstone.

It is a fact, however, that there are lots of rats on the top of Pike's Peak, and where they come from and how they live nobody can explain. The man in charge of the restaurant told me they had to set traps every night, and generally caught two or three, but this did not seem to diminish the number. Down on the mountain woodchucks, squirrels, chipmunks and other burrowing game can be found but the rats that haunt the signal station are a mystery.

DUELING IN THE ARMY.

Meetings on the Field of Honor of Which the Public Never Hears.

Good United States people roll their eyes in holy horror when they read about the free and easy manner in which dueling is practiced abroad, says the Washington Star. Just now they are in a tremor of indignation over the recent ukase of the emperor of Russia, which was addressed to his army and navy officers, and informed them that they must recognize the necessity of fighting duels under certain circumstances. If these pious people were aware of how much real dueling occurs in the regular army which protects the dignity of the American flag they would begin to hold mass meetings.

While our army is not as large as those of other countries, its young officers are as quick and ready to resent an insult in the manner recognized by the code as any continental wearer of epaulettes in existence. And they do it, too. Affairs like the Maney-Hedberg tragedy are, of course, uncommon, but any man well informed in the personnel of the army and the life at the various posts knows that there are many occasions when differences arise

between officers which are not settled until the approved number of paces are measured off and the two principals in the difficulty take a shot or two at each other. There is never any fatal result, but there are many army officers in the service now who bear scars of wounds that were never inflicted in regular battle. Hospital reports of western army posts sometimes make an old-timer smile when they read how Lieut. This has a sprained leg or Capt. That had hurt his arm by a fall.

Characteristics of European Cities.

An observer, says a correspondent of the Leeds Mercury, has just drawn up a little table in which he arranges the principal cities and towns of the world according to a classification which has at least the merit of novelty. Each town is considered from the point of view of the trades which are carried on in it. According to these statistics in Paris there reside the most tailors, upholsterers, bonnet makers, barbers, advocates and men of letters, men or women. In London we find the most cab and carriage proprietors, engineers, printers, booksellers and—though most people would scarcely credit it—cooks. In Amsterdam we find the most are dealers and money-lenders; Brussels is celebrated as the place where the largest number of boys smoke; it is in Naples that we find the most street porters; we see the largest number of beer-drinkers in Berlin; Florence possesses the most flower-sellers, and Lisbon is celebrated as containing the most bailiffs.

An Alleged Miracle.

At Radicea, in Calabria, a statue of the virgin which had stood quietly for one hundred years in the village church, suddenly began to move its eyes on the 9th of September last. The miracle was seen by all the inhabitants, who took the statue out that night and carried it about in procession, when a strange halo in the shape of the cross was seen around the moon. From that day the Church of the Madonna of the Mountain has been crowded day and night, pilgrimages to her are being organized, gifts are pouring in, and already fifty thousand francs in money have been received. The syndic of the town asserts that the miracle really happened, and a delegation has started for Rome to lay the facts before the pope.

Odd Names for Birds.

There are some odd names for game birds far down the Chesapeake. A small shy snipe that flies with a twittering noise is called the horsefoot snipe, because of its fondness for the horse-foot or horse-shoe crab. It is called also the turnstone, from its habit of overturning pebbles in search of food. The telltale snipe bears that name because it always sounds a note of alarm at the sight of a gunner. Chesapeake gunners believe that a single telltale can clear a whole region of game birds. The widgeon is locally called the bald pate, and the willet is so called because of its cry: "Will-willet!"

THE RULING PASSION.

She Was Determined to Inspect the Toga of the Other Woman.

The ruling passion gets away with woman every time, says the Boston Globe. At a theater the other night a lady appeared suddenly at the box office and asked the manager for an admission ticket.

"Don't you wish a seat?" the ticket seller asked. "We have a few good seats in the balcony."

"I haven't time to sit down," said the lady. "My husband is waiting for me outside, and besides I have seen the play already."

The ticket seller didn't know what to say to this.

"I only wanted to go in for a few minutes," the fair visitor continued. "I saw a lady pass in a moment ago, and she was so elegantly dressed that I want a good look at her and see exactly what she has on. That's all."

The manager, to whom this explanation was made, escorted the dress-fascinated woman into the auditorium, and she went around to a side aisle and made a thorough observation of what the ultra-fashionable dame "had on."

"Oh, it was perfectly lovely!" she explained as she joined her husband at the door.

A Great Place for Hunters.

Judging from late statistics, India still remains a magnificent country for sportsmen. In 1892 21,988 human beings and 81,668 head of cattle were killed by snakes and wild beasts, the chief human mortality—19,025—having been due to snake bite. Tigers claimed 947 human victims, leopards 260, wolves 132, bears 143, and elephants 72. On the other hand, whereas only 4,498 cattle were killed by snake bite, no fewer than 20,969 were devoured by tigers, 30,013 by leopards, and 6,758 by wolves.

About the Dollar Mark.

There are several theories to account for the origin of our dollar mark (\$). First—Some say it is a combination or monogram composed of the letters U and S, the initials of the United States. Second—It may have been derived from "L. S.," the mark of the Roman money unit. Third—It is probably a combination of P. and S., from Pesoduro, a Spanish term signifying "hard dollar." A fourth reason assigned is that it is a "piece of eight," and designated by the symbol S.

Reflected Light.

Some months ago an English manufacturer made a number of experiments to determine the best method of illuminating his cloth mills. Gas jets, incandescence lamps and arc lights were all tried and found wanting, as they either failed to give light enough, gave too much light, or cast heavy shadows. The walls of a room were painted white, and under each of a number of arc lights was suspended a reflector, which threw all the light up to the white ceiling, from which it was reflected to the room below. This system was successful from the outset and has attracted considerable attention among English weavers.